

could be related to him, Frank Sinatra helped define America for the rest of the world. He was the epitome of the American dream, rising from modest surroundings to become the biggest recording artist in the world. Although he was not a scholar, his impact on our national culture was enormous. And, it was a very positive impact. Frank became as identified with America as "mom and apple pie."

Everyone knows about Frank Sinatra's success as an entertainer. He made hundreds of hit records, was awarded three Oscars, received seven Grammys, a Peabody Award, and an Emmy. But many people don't know that he was also a great philanthropist and humanitarian. They may not know about this side of Frank Sinatra because of his modest nature and the quiet way he went about helping others. I know how often Frank Sinatra helped friends in need and total strangers. He contributed his name, time, and money to many, many worthwhile causes never desiring credit or recognition. But his generosity is legendary among those who know him. That is why he was honored with some of the Nation's most prestigious humanitarian awards—the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Academy of Arts and Sciences' Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award, the Life Achievement Award of the NAACP, and many others. In my community of Palm Springs, Frank Sinatra contributed generously to so many causes, including the creation of the Martin Anthony Sinatra Medical Education Center in honor of his father.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to know Frank Sinatra, and I am proud to consider him a friend and inspiration. We are honoring a truly great American.

IN HONOR OF THE STUDENT CHAPTER OF THE SOCIETY OF HISPANIC PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 1997

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the student chapter of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, which garnered first place at the National Academic Olympiad. The four triumphant team members will be honored by the Hispanic Organization of Students in Technology at the Fifth Annual Gala Banquet at Campino Restaurant in Newark, NJ.

The event celebrates the accomplishments of the New Jersey Institute of Technology's [NJIT] victorious College Bowl Team. The team was composed of four engineering majors: Rene J. Yandun, Fernando Teixeira, Pablo O. Delgado Jr., and Aldo Nina. This National Academic Olympiad, held during the National Technical and Career Conference [NTCC] in Philadelphia, is a prestigious educational event sponsored by the companies such as Hewlett Packard, Kodak, Lucent Technologies, Amoco, Motorola, and Texas Instruments.

A series of valuable workshops were available at the conference, such as "The Academic Stress", "Student and Professional Workshop", "Creating Solutions for a Changing World", and "Improving your College Career—Making yourself more Marketable".

Members of the student chapter of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers were able to enhance their professional college careers—185 of the top engineering corporations and government agencies were present and recruiting talented Latino student Latino corporate America. The conference also supplied entertainment for the participating students which included a gala reception where company executives and students mingled for an evening of celebration.

NTC '97 played an essential role in the futures of these Hispanic students. Conferences of this type augment the possibility for NJIT students to become involved with important members of the professional world. They have the opportunity to pursue internships or employment in their prospective careers. Finally NJIT has received its deserved national recognition for their achievements in competing against schools in various regions of our country.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the outstanding work of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers and those individuals being honored at its annual gala. The victorious College Bowl Team members serve as excellent examples for other members of the Hispanic Organization of Students in Technology to follow. I commend their accomplishments and am delighted with their progress in the engineering field.

IN HONOR OF JOHNNY VADNAL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 1997

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the lifetime achievement of Johnny Vadal—band leader, master of the accordion, and Cleveland's Polka King.

Johnny Vadal and his family—mother, Anna; brothers, Tony, Frankie, and Richie; and sister, Valeria—brought the joys and rhythms of polka music to Cleveland and the country for the past 50 years.

Johnny was the first polka band leader in the country to have his own television show in a major market. From 1949 to 1961, the Vadnals performed every Sunday afternoon at 1 o'clock on WEWS channel 5 in Cleveland.

In the late 1940's and early 1950's, the Vadnals played six nights a week. Johnny and his band were regulars at all the famous establishments including the Superior Ballroom, Twilight Gardens, Aragon Ballroom, and the Bowl Ballroom. Johnny was so popular at the Bowl Ballroom that not even Louis Prima drew a crowd like Johnny could.

At the height of his popularity, Johnny captivated 64,000 baseball fans at Cleveland Stadium when he introduced "The Baseball Polka" in 1950. Recording for RCA Victor, Johnny's biggest hits were the "Yes, My Dear" waltz, which sold 50,000 copies in its first week, "Two-Timing You," "The Slap Happy Polka," "The Prairie Polka," "The Mountain Climber," "No Beer on Sunday," "Blame in on the Waltz," "Clap Hands Polka," and his theme song, "The Wayside Polka." In 1983, Johnny wrote "My Alice Waltz" for his wife, and it was named polka song of the year.

Johnny's prodigious talent was matched only by the passion and sincerity with which

he played. "All I can say is I play from the heart," he has said.

On May 7, the National Cleveland Style Polka Hall of Fame will salute Johnny Vadal upon his retirement. Mr. Speaker, we are richer as a nation and more civilized as a people for Johnny's contribution to the culture.

IN HONOR OF OFFICER ANTONIO NARDINI AND HIS FELLOW POLICE OFFICERS: MAKING A DIFFERENCE EVERY DAY IN THE LIVES OF THE RESIDENTS OF BAYONNE

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 1997

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a truly special gentleman, Police Officer Antonio Nardini of Bayonne, NJ. Officer Nardini's extraordinary efforts will be recognized during the 1997 Make a Difference Day Awards ceremony in Arlington, VA.

The awards presentation will celebrate the contributions of 11 unique individuals—including Officer Nardini—chosen from more than 1 million people, from all over the Nation, who participated in USA Today's Make a Difference Day on October 26, 1996. Anyone who knows Officer Nardini is not surprised that he would be included in this elite group. His work as a Drug Abuse Resistance Education [DARE] Officer has positively affected the lives of countless young people in Bayonne. When the idea for this ambitious hunger reduction project came to Officer Nardini, local schoolchildren were naturally inspired to pitch in and make a difference themselves.

The road which has led Officer Nardini to this special acknowledgment began on 23d Street in his hometown of Bayonne where he witnessed numerous people awaiting food distributions outside a local church. Upon closer inspection, Officer Nardini surmised that there were indeed a number of community food pantries struggling to provide for their needy constituencies. This dire situation was a call to action for Officer Nardini and his fellow officers to volunteer their time to help ease the situation. They promptly installed a collection bin in their precinct, setting the example which many then followed, including city hall, the housing authority, senior citizens complexes, and every library in town.

USA Today Weekend held its annual Make a Difference Day October 26, 1996. With Thanksgiving less than a month away, it gave people an opportunity to give thanks for all they have by helping others in need. On that morning, 7,500 children from 17 local elementary schools, along with other volunteers from corporate, union, and civic groups, took up the challenge of helping those less fortunate than themselves. They joined Officer Nardini and his fellow officers going door to door, collecting food donations that were loaded onto trucks which were donated by the city of Bayonne. At day's end, 22 trucks were brimming with donations, and helped save the Thanksgiving holiday for many families in need. Some of the day's harvest was distributed to food pantries in the community, to help them with their good work.